

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method of making a blow-molded PET plastic container having an externally threaded wide-mouth finish, comprising:

mounting a preform in a mold having a surface, the preform having a body forming region, a thread forming region above the body forming region, and a dome forming region above the thread forming region;

stretching the preform against the mold surface to form an intermediate article having a dome portion connected to a threaded neck portion of the container, ~~a wall thickness of the threaded neck portion being within the range of 0.032-0.038 inches;~~ and

severing the dome portion from the threaded neck portion to produce a wide mouth container, wherein the ratio of a wall thickness of the thread forming region of the preform to the wall thickness of the threaded neck portion is about 4.09 - 5.59.

2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended): The method of claim 12, wherein the ratio of the diameter of the thread forming region of the preform to the diameter of the finished threads is approximately 0.500 +/- 0.005.

4. (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 1~~ A method of making a blow-molded PET plastic container having an externally threaded wide-mouth finish, comprising:

mounting a preform in a mold having a surface, the preform having a body forming region, a thread forming region above the body forming region, and a dome forming region above the thread forming region;

stretching the preform against the mold surface to form an intermediate article having a dome portion connected to a threaded neck portion of the container, a wall thickness of the threaded neck portion being within the range of 0.032-0.038 inches; and

severing the dome portion from the threaded neck portion to produce a wide mouth container,

wherein the ratio of the diameter of the thread forming region of the preform to the diameter of the finished threads is approximately 0.500 ± 0.005 .

5. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the preform is preheated.

6. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the temperature of the mold surface is less than 60.degree. F.

7. (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 1~~ A method of making a blow-molded PET plastic container having an externally threaded wide-mouth finish, comprising:

mounting a preform in a mold having a surface, the preform having a body forming region, a thread forming region above the body forming region, and a dome forming region above the thread forming region;

stretching the preform against the mold surface to form an intermediate article having a dome portion connected to a threaded neck portion of the container, a wall thickness of the threaded neck portion being within the range of 0.032-0.038 inches; and
severing the dome portion from the threaded neck portion to produce a wide mouth container,

wherein the crest of the thread is flattened, the upper surface of the thread extends upwardly toward the outer surface of the neck at an angle of about 150.degree. and the lower surface of the thread extends downwardly toward the outer surface of the neck at an angle of about 100.degree., the depth of the thread being about 0.057 inches.

8. - 9. (canceled).

10. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein a thickness of a wall portion of the thread forming region of the preform is within the range of 0.1555-0.1790 inches.

11. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein a depth of a thread on the threaded neck portion from root to crest is 0.0575 inches.

12. (currently amended): A method of making a blow-molded PET plastic container having an externally threaded wide-mouth finish, comprising:

mounting a preform in a mold having a surface, the preform having a body forming region, a thread forming region above the body forming region, and a dome forming region

above the thread forming region, a thickness of a wall portion of the thread forming region of the preform is within the range of 0.1555-0.1790 inches;

stretching the preform against the mold surface to form an intermediate article having a dome portion connected to a threaded neck portion of the container; and

severing the dome portion from the threaded neck portion to produce a wide mouth container.

13. (currently amended): The method of claim 12, wherein a depth of a thread on the threaded neck portion from root to crest is 0.0575 inches.